



City of Seattle

Department of Planning and Development

D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Application Number:** 3012127

**Applicant Name:** Sloan Richie for Cascade Built LLC

**Address of Proposal:** 216 B 26th Ave E

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to subdivide one development site into two unit lots in an environmentally critical area. Review includes the construction of a second dwelling unit (single family residence) under Project #6252937 with the existing townhouse to remain. This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots.

The following approvals are required:

**Short Subdivision** – To subdivide one existing parcel into two lots as a unit lot subdivision. (Chapter 23.24, Seattle Municipal Code)

**SEPA - Environmental Determination** – (Chapter 25.05, Seattle Municipal Code).

**SEPA DETERMINATION**

- ☐ Exempt    ☒ DNS    ☐ MDNS    ☐ EIS
- ☐ DNS with conditions
- ☐ DNS with conditions involving non-exempt grading or demolition or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

**BACKGROUND DATA**

Zoning: Low-rise Two (LR2).

Existing/Proposed

Uses on Site: One Townhouse Unit (to remain) / Single Family Residence.

Public Comment: The comment period for this proposal ended on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. During the public comment period, DPD received no written comments related to the project.

### **ANALYSIS - SHORT SUBDIVISION**

Pursuant to SMC 23.24.040, the Director shall, after conferring with appropriate officials, use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions;*
2. *Adequacy of access for vehicles, utilities and fire protection, as provided in Section 23.53.005;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of SMC Section 25.09.240, short subdivision and subdivisions in environmentally critical areas;*
6. *Is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees;*
7. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single-family housing; and*
8. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.046, Multiple single-family dwelling units on a single-family lot, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating two (2) or more lots from one (1) lot with more than one (1) existing single-family dwelling unit.*

### **Summary - Short Subdivision**

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments or approvals from Zoning (DPD), Ordinance and Structural (DPD), Drainage (DPD), Water (SWD), City Light (SCL), Fire Department (SFD) and review by the Land Use Planner, the above cited criteria have been met subject to the conditions imposed at the end of this decision. The lots to be created by this short subdivision will meet all minimum standards or applicable exceptions set forth in the Land Use Code, and are consistent with applicable development standards. This short subdivision will be provided with vehicular access, public and private utilities and access (including emergency vehicles). Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal have been provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area, and the related development (DPD Project #6252937) has been reviewed and approved under the applicable standards of the Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance (SMC 25.09). The provisions of SMC 25.09.240 are not applicable to unit lot subdivisions. The proposed plat maximizes the retention of existing trees as reviewed under the related development proposed. The public use and interest are served by the proposal since all applicable criteria are met and the proposal creates the potential for additional owner-occupied housing opportunities in the City.

### **ANALYSIS –UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single-family housing.

- A. *The unit subdivision provisions of SMC Section 23.24.045 apply exclusively to the unit subdivision of land for townhouses, cottage housing developments, residential cluster developments, and single-family residences in zones where such uses are permitted.*
- B. *Sites developed or proposed to be developed with dwelling units listed in subsection A above, may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards applicable at the time the permit application is vested. As a result of the subdivision, development on individual unit lots may be nonconforming as to some or all of the development standards based on analysis of the individual unit lot, except that any private, usable open space for each dwelling unit shall be provided on the same lot as the dwelling unit it serves.*
- C. *Subsequent platting actions, additions or modifications to the structure(s) may not create or increase any nonconformity of the parent lot.*
- D. *Access easements and joint use and maintenance agreements shall be executed for use of common garage or parking areas, common open space (such as common courtyard space for cottage housing), and other similar features, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*
- E. *A joint use and maintenance agreement has been included on the short plat documents and should also be included on the final documents for recording.*
- F. *Within the parent lot, required parking for a dwelling unit may be provided on a different unit lot than the lot with the dwelling unit, as long as the right to use that parking is formalized by an easement on the plat, as recorded with the Director of King County Department of Records and Elections.*
- G. *The fact that the unit lot is not a separate buildable lot, and that additional development of the individual unit lots may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot shall be noted on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

### **Summary - Unit Lot Subdivision**

Review of this application shows that the proposed short subdivision would conform to applicable standards of SMC 23.24.045 subject to the conditions imposed at the end of this decision. The associated construction development contains one Single Family dwelling. The structure, as reviewed under the separate building permit, will conform to the development standards for the time the permit application was vested. To assure that future owners have constructive notice that additional development may be limited; the applicant will be required to add a note to the face of the plat that reads as follows: Include the following on the face of the plat: *“The lots created by unit subdivision are not separate building lots. Additional development on any individual lot in this unit subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code.”* A joint use and maintenance agreement is provided on the plat.

## **DECISION – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

The proposed Unit Lot Subdivision is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED**.

## **ANALYSIS – SEPA**

The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area, thus the application is not exempt from SEPA review. However, SMC 25.05.908 provides that the scope of environmental review of projects within critical areas shall be limited to: 1) documenting whether the proposal is consistent with the City's Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) regulations in SMC 25.09; and 2) Evaluating potentially significant impacts on the critical area resources not adequately addressed in the ECA regulations. This review includes identifying additional mitigation measures if needed to protect the ECA in order to achieve consistency with SEPA and other applicable environmental laws.

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the Seattle State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11, and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05).

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant dated March 15, 2011. The information in the checklist and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The Department of Planning and Development has analyzed the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; and reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the file. As indicated in this analysis, this action will not result in adverse impacts to the environment.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, and certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced, may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states, in part, "*Where City regulations have been adopted to address and environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*" subject to some limitations. Short-term adverse impacts are not anticipated from the proposal. No adverse long-term impacts on the environmentally critical area are anticipated.

## **DECISION – SEPA**

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the SEPA Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- ☒ Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.030(2) (c).

Review Requirements for Final Plat Recording Documents

1. Make all changes required by Zoning and Addressing reviews.
2. Provide the required Seattle City Light easement.

**CONDITIONS – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

For Life of the Project

1. The proposed ingress/egress and utilities easement is inadequate for Fire Department access.

Applicant will provide an approved fire department access walkway to 216 B from 26th Ave. E. meeting the provisions noted below.

Section 504.1 of the 2009 Seattle Fire Code Required Access. Exterior doors and openings required by the Seattle Fire Code or the International Building Code shall be maintained readily accessible for emergency access by the fire department. An approved access walkway leading from fire apparatus access roads to exterior openings shall be provided when required by the fire code official.

2. The owner(s) and/or responsible party(s) shall attach a copy of the recorded short subdivision to all future permit application plans for any application for a permit to construct, demolish, or change use.

**CONDITIONS – SEPA**

None.

Signature: (signature on file)

Lucas de Herrera, Senior Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning Development

Date: June 27, 2011